

FISCAL UPDATE News Article

Fiscal Services Division
October 20, 2015



IOWA E911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting. The Iowa E911 Communications Council met on October 14 at the West Des Moines City Hall. E911 Surcharge Fund Administrator Blake DeRouchey reported on several items:

- Training relating to statewide upgrades (October 19).
- A public meeting for input regarding administrative rule updates due to legislative changes (October 20).
- Next Generation updates to allow texting to 911 are complete, but there is a problem transferring calls. A solution is being explored and there will be no cost if carriers need to be switched.
- Discussions are being held with the Attorney General's Office and Mediacom to address the issue of names being dropped off the databases.
- The migration of the data center from Newton is scheduled for completion by the end of October.
- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has a new reporting tool for PSAPs (Public Service Answering Points) to report power outages and it is located on the FCC website.

PSAP Applications. The Council approved a total of 24 grants for \$1.7 million to the PSAPs.

Status of Statewide Radio Platform Funding. The Council questioned how the State Treasurer's refusal to expend the \$4.0 million in E911 surcharge funds for the statewide platform lease will be resolved. It is unknown at this time how long the delay will be in funding, but other financing options are being considered by the Treasurer's Office. Motorola was awarded the platform contract and has begun initial work.

Iowa Interoperability Governance Board. Coordinator Craig Allen reported:

- Two regional meetings are left to be held in Sioux City and Mason City. Chairs and vice-chairs have been named for regions where meetings have been held. Allen is very pleased with the enthusiasm and participation to date.
- Policy discussion continues to center around defining public safety grade, standard of coverage, and encryption.
- A SCIP (Secure Communication Interoperable Protocol) review is being held after the Interoperability Board meeting this afternoon. The main item to accomplish is reviewing goals for the strategic plan.

Other Items. The question was raised as to when the study required by the General Assembly will be completed as it is due to the General Assembly on January 1, 2016. The draft will be ready in December for the Council to review.

Next Meeting. The next Council meeting will be November 18 at the West Des Moines City Hall.

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